

a moment; also in waiting for tardy members to make a quorum. More time should be given to informal social gatherings, where members could move about and meet each other, instead of sitting around the wall like a row of images. Most important of all, some work of real importance, and genuine usefulness should be taken up yearly, and associations might well be divided into departments, like the women's clubs, each department having its special work. Every member of the association should be in one of these departments; thus all would feel a share in the interest and responsibility, which now are loaded on two or three chairmen of committees, or on the president.

Instead of making routine monthly reports to the *JOURNAL*, all sounding exactly alike, and consisting principally of names, associations could report when something was done; when an achievement had been completed; when some worthy success had encouraged them.

We have given in these pages what we consider to be the ideal lines of development with the ideal division of work and interests for the future life and up-building of our organizations.

The Alumnae Association has been a powerful factor in the development of national unity; can it be extended to meet the needs of the growing future; is it possible to overcome the fostering of school lines and the narrowing of interests which at the present time seem to be a threatened danger?

Have its days of usefulness passed and is this the cause of the prevailing inertia, to the existence of which we cannot blind ourselves?

If this is true, then what is to be our next line of development?

With fresh vigor we must get to work. Stagnation will be our ruin.

OUR PRIVATE NURSING EDITOR

WE announced in our last issue that at the January meeting of the Journal Directors, it was decided to appoint a salaried Private Nursing Editor who would devote her entire time to subjects dealing exclusively with the work and interests of private nurses.

Miss Catharine De Witt, who has been appointed to this position, was born in the State of New York, received a college education in Massachusetts, graduated as a nurse from the Illinois Training-School in Chicago, and has practiced her profession in nearly every state in the Union.

Immediately after receiving her nurse diploma in 1891 she was

enrolled in the directory of the Illinois school and took anything and everything that offered, hard and easy cases alike, for a long period of years. She has more recently specialized in obstetrics. She was at one time the president of the Illinois Alumnæ and has been always closely in touch with the organization life of her profession.

In addition to all of this exceptional and broad experience she possesses a naturally gifted pen, as has been demonstrated in her contributions to the earlier numbers of this journal.

During the five years which have just closed the burning question with the great nursing body all over the world has been organization leading to state registration. This journal has been the leading organ in the United States in this movement for state registration; much of our space has been occupied by reports of organization work and of papers pertaining to such work, and as the result we have practically the whole country organized on uniform lines. There is a friendliness, an *esprit de corps*, existing between the nurses of the North, South, East and West, such as was never dreamed of before the JOURNAL's existence. We are exceedingly proud of this achievement.

During this time, however, the needs of the women absorbed in private nursing have not been forgotten. Every number issued has contained more or less matter of importance and value to this class of workers, but the feeling has grown, and we have been perhaps the first to recognize it, that the vitally important questions pertaining to organization have in a measure overshadowed the more simple and practical subjects belonging to the daily life of the private nurses.

Organization is in a measure an old story; it is established, and each State and city has a group of educated leaders who may be trusted to act as guides in all matters of organization detail. The JOURNAL now proposes to turn its attention more particularly and closely to those matters of nursing care and methods that the great rank and file are demanding at its hands.

With April our new Private Nursing Editor will begin her work and it is our intention to make the May issue a special private nursing number.

We want to remind this class of workers, however, that if the JOURNAL has sometimes lacked practical papers pertaining to their special line of work, it is, to speak plainly, their own fault.

It has been a constant effort of the editors and collaborators to induce the private nurses to write original papers pertaining to their peculiar work, and we have had some splendid contributions from private nurses, but the great bulk of our material has been contributed either by

the very busy superintendents of hospitals or by the organization leaders.

Under the guidance of our special Private Nursing Editor we shall look for more cordial coöperation from the private nurses.

It is only fair to say that nurses who will not help to make the JOURNAL interesting should not criticise it for not furnishing such material as they desire, bearing in mind that this magazine is a professional journal and not a commercial enterprise; that its aims are to educate, not to reap dividends, and that as the official organ of the Associated Alumnae with its affiliated membership of more than ten thousand nurses, the responsibility for its success rests quite as much upon the great rank and file of private duty nurses as with the small group of women who have carried forward its development until the present time.

Organization, with all that pertains to it, will continue to occupy an important place in our pages, but the needs of private nurses will receive greater attention during the coming years.

RESEARCH WORK BY NURSES

THE Lakeside Hospital School for Nurses, Cleveland, Ohio, offers to its third-year pupils a special prize of the value of \$75 for the best paper written upon a subject selected by the Training-School Committee; the papers to be submitted for examination to the Training-School Committee, and the prize not to be awarded unless the paper offered be of sufficient merit.

Subject selected for this year—"The Alleviation of the Discomforts following Anesthesia."

Also a prize of the value of \$25 has been offered to the third-year pupils by Dr. Edward F. Cushing, for the best paper on "The Nursing of Sick Children."

This action of the Lakeside School will have double value in the education of the nurses not only in training their powers of observation but in cultivating the habit of expressing themselves in writing, a form of development in which we have reason to know the average private nurse is lacking. We have come to the conclusion that it is not from the lack of knowledge or time that makes it almost impossible to persuade nurses in private practice to write of their work, but because the habit of literary expression in regard to things pertaining to their profession has not been properly developed during the period when they were